

A man in a military uniform is hanging from a white safety net. He is looking up with a slight smile. The net is made of a white mesh material. A red rope is visible in the background.

TIP OF THE SWORD

Jan. 28, 2004

Incirlik Air Base, Turkey

Not just for kids

Slide keeps control tower workers safe

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On the cover:

Master Sgt. Stewart Williams, 39th Operations Squadron tower chief controller, demonstrates the use of a Baker Life Chute. The chute was installed at the air traffic control tower to get the people who work there out quickly in an emergency. See related article, Page 8. (Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards)

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Combat Wingman taking next step

By Capt. Lisa Neidinger
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIRBASE, Germany (USAFENS) — USAFE's top leaders say the newest Command and Special Interest Program, Combat Wingman, launched successfully and is gaining altitude and airspeed throughout the command.

General Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, commander, United States Air Forces in Europe, and Chief Gary Coleman, USAFE Command Chief Master Sergeant, agree that while the program is off to a good start, future efforts will continue to revolutionize the program.

"Our Air Force family has many members," said Gen. Foglesong. "Combat Wingman is our way to ensure we all are looking out for each other, from the lowest ranking Airman all the way to the top. We all need someone looking out for us."

Airmen, civilian workers and family members throughout Europe have committed to each other, and many are now carrying the Combat Wingman card.

"We built a Wingman card that's being used throughout the command," said Capt. Rita Perez from USAFE

Commander's Action Group, who helped launch Combat Wingman. "We estimate over 21,000 members have formally become part of the Combat Wingman team by filling out a card."

Chief Coleman credits the Wingman standdown day Nov. 8 with really bringing the Wingman program into focus.

"The chance to take a day to step back and listen to one another, value interpersonal relationships, and identify members of the larger team by name — that was big. I think it really helped us come together even more as a force," Chief Coleman said.

See **Wingman**, Page 5



USAFE Idol contest lets stars shine

By Capt. Krista Carlos
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIRBASE, Germany (USAFENS) — U.S. Air Forces in Europe Airmen will get the opportunity of a lifetime to sing with a professional band, USAFE's Touch n'Go Ensemble, while competing in the USAFE Idol Talent Contest April 23 here.

While the judges may not be as harsh as Simon Cowell or as famous as Paula Abdul, participants will be given an equally rewarding experience — the chance to be the next 'USAFE Idol.'

"The USAFE Idol Talent Contest is open to all active-duty Airmen assigned to USAFE units," said Mandy Smith-Nethercott, USAFE Services.

"There will be eight wing-level contests that will judge solo vocal performances," she said. "The first-place winner of the wing-level contests will proceed to Ramstein (Air Base, Germany) in April to compete at the USAFE level."

This event is an opportunity to provide quality entertainment while showcasing the talent of USAFE Airmen.

"The USAFE Idol Contest is an excellent opportunity for our stars to shine," said Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander. "I have traveled all over the command and seen some incredible talent, and this contest will provide a great venue to highlight our Airmen's singing abilities as well as provide a morale boost for our USAFE family."

The USAFE command chief has also witnessed the command-wide talent.

"We've heard our folks perform the National Anthem at base events, we've watched opening acts and various talent contests, and even seen Airmen participate in karaoke nights who are not afraid to get up and embarrass themselves," said Chief Master Sgt. Gary Coleman, USAFE command chief master sergeant. "We know that some

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Looking back on history, USAFE birthday

From WWII to Iraq and everything in between, USAF's oldest MAJCOM looks at 63

By Capt. Krista Carlos
USAFE News Service

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)—As the oldest active major command in the Air Force, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe celebrated its 63rd birthday Jan. 19.

Throughout the years, USAFE Airmen and assets have played a significant role in securing peace and stability to the region.

"From the days of World War II, to Desert Storm and the Balkan operations to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, USAFE has played a vital role in providing for a free and stable Europe," said Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander. "USAFE has a rich history of contributing to the success of every major military operation in theater since its activation."

During WWII, USAFE forces conducted daylight bombing operations over continental Europe from bases in the United Kingdom, and later incorporated

reconnaissance of enemy movements throughout occupied Europe.

In addition to combat and peacekeeping operations, the command has conducted more than 160 humanitarian relief operations, ranging from the Berlin Airlift and relief in the Balkans to responding to natural disasters. At the same time, it served as the cornerstone of the NATO alliance and saved lives throughout Europe and the Middle East. Most recently, USAFE forces stepped up to provide aid to people from as far away as India with the tsunami relief effort.

In 1991, USAFE committed more than 15 percent of its personnel and 33 percent of its aircraft to support Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In the mid 1990s, USAFE became involved in the Balkan operations. From Operations Deny Flight to Shining Hope, the command helped bring opposing forces to the peace table while providing humanitarian relief to Kosovo Albanians.

While the command has changed over the years, its focus has remained constant.

"USAFE forces have always demonstrated the capability and flexibility to perform a variety of missions," said Dr. John Sullivan, USAFE command historian.

"Currently we're facing the new threat, global terrorism. Throughout these 63 years, organizational structures and doctrine may have changed, but the command's mission and courage and resolve of its people have not."

Today, as our military transforms to face a global threat in non-conventional warfare, USAFE has also adapted to face the challenge.

"Sept. 11, 2001 changed the world forever," General Foglesong said. "USAFE has stepped up to the challenge by providing world-class support to the theater of operations. Today, our over 32,000 personnel and assets are the forward projection of American power in the European theater. We will continue to transform to meet mission requirements, and our expeditionary mentality will allow us to be flexible and responsive to the challenges that await us."

"As we celebrate USAFE's 63rd birthday, I would like to thank our dedicated professionals who have served, and continue to serve, in support of the mission," said General Foglesong. "I'm proud of our legacy of success as the most respected and feared air and space force in the world, and I'm looking forward to our future achievements."

2020 vision offers glimpse of future, defines effectiveness

By Maj. Carrie Omdal
USAFE Office of Transformation

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)—To guide U.S. Air Forces in Europe in preparing for the future, Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, USAFE commander, created Air Forces Europe 2020.

"Our world is changing," the general said. "As a command, we're transforming to meet future challenges and increase our warfighting effectiveness. Air Forces Europe 2020 provides the framework."

The fundamental principles of Air Forces Europe 2020 include: transforming doctrine, organization structure, basing and weapons systems to support U.S. and NATO strategic priorities; strengthening current, and forging new, alliances; maintaining air leadership in Europe and Africa; and sustaining agile and lethal expeditionary

forces ready to respond decisively and defeat those that threaten peace and freedom.

"Every aspect of our transformation complements the initiatives by the Department of Defense, NATO, and the European Command," said Brig. Gen. Rusty Findley, USAFE Plans and Programs director. "Our basing strategy, organization changes, theater security cooperation program and readiness initiatives are ensuring we can meet evolving threats and enhancing our international partnerships."

To facilitate this successful transformation, the USAFE Office of Transformation is distributing the Air Forces Europe 2020 DVD, brochure, and tri-fold to the wings and geographically separated units.

"Every Airman contributes to the success of our transformation," said Col. Mark Hinchman, Chief of the USAFE Office of Transformation. "As a command, we're integrating these principles into our operational concepts, organizations, programs and processes to prepare us for the future. Supporting a synchronized strategy with EUCOM and the other components leverages our individual strengths and closes operational seams."

It also helps us maintain our fighting edge, said General Foglesong.

"Air Forces Europe 2020 keeps us postured and ready to support our nation and sustain the United States Air Force as the most respected air and space force in the world," he said.

For more information about Air Forces Europe 2020, visit <https://www.mil.usafe.af.mil/direct/cvt/home.htm>.



'Fit to Fight': More than just catchy phrase

By Col. David Wilmot
39th Mission Support Group

So why, all of a sudden, is this fitness stuff so important anyway? Why the hype and concern — our personal fitness never seemed that big of a deal before, or was it? We can do our jobs without all this fitness stuff — we have always gotten the mission done.

First, if you think the Air Force did not care about fitness before, you are wrong. It takes the entire Air Force team to ensure mission success but as long as most of us have been in the Air Force, only a small portion of the force was actually required to engage the enemy. The phrase "fit to fight" was not in vogue then; however, fitness for

that group of warriors was taken very seriously — why? Warriors soon realized fitness level could be the difference between life and death not only for themselves but for their wingman. This paradigm was shattered Sept. 11, 2001 when it was dramatically brought to our attention that the enemy is among us and they have the means and the will to bring the fight to us. Since that day, we are all frontline warriors and we have to be fit.

Read the newspapers: Airmen, Soldiers and Marines are being killed everyday in the area of responsibility. Things are different now and being fit is very important to your survival. Today, any of us could find ourselves defending a convoy of trucks, the flightline or even our homes. To do these things, we have to be physically and mentally in shape — we have to be "fit to fight" — it makes a difference.

A few months ago the wing held its first sports day since March. The event was a resounding success and a great time for all. However, as you may have noticed, many of our folks were unable to successfully complete a one mile wing formation run. It was hard to believe, given the U.S. Air Force's emphasis on physical training and the amount of time each squadron devotes to fitness.

Consequently, the 39th Mission Support Group instituted a monthly formation run to promote fitness and wingman esprit-de-corps. The group increased the distance to 1.5 miles and intends to increase it a little each month — unfortunately, the drop-out rate has not diminished.

Excuses rained down and whispers flew about how everyone that did not finish was at least trying. Trying is an important ingredient but I believe that trying hard will only get you to the game and it is not good enough for our Air Force.

We collectively constitute the greatest Air Force in the world and we are about being winners — not simply participants! Practice, dedication, guts, drive and determination as well as trying hard makes a winner and "fit to fight" is about being a winner!

To get in shape is not difficult and it is everyone's personal responsibility. It is not your squadron commander's, your flight commander's nor your first shirt's. There are many places on base to help get you started to include the Health and Wellness Center and the gym staff or even folks in the squadron. Don't wait — start on the road that will get you "fit to fight" today.



Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

There are a number of fitness classes available at the base fitness center to help people get "fit to fight." For more information about the fitness center events call 6-6086.

Idol

Continued from Page 2

of our Airmen have untapped talents and, if given the opportunity, will amaze us all."

USAFE Idol contestants will not only need to be talented, but will also be expected to follow specific guidelines.

"Each contestant will be required to have two songs prepared for the contest. Both songs will be performed at the wing and USAFE level," said Ms. Smith-Nethercott. "The use of pre-recorded music will not be authorized since the Touch n' Go ensemble from the USAFE Band will provide live musical accompaniment during both wing and USAFE-level contests."

A panel of three judges will be used to evaluate Airmen at both levels. Once the contestants progress to the USAFE-level, they will be evaluated on technical excellence, showmanship and treatment and interpretation of material by an additional group of judges selected by the command staff, said Ms. Smith-Nethercott.

"There will be no "Simon" judging these contests," said Chief Coleman. "The idea isn't to get audience ratings, so you won't see the commercialism that's out there. It will also not be a critical evaluation of the members in our command, but an apprecia-

tion and recognition of those members who have absolutely superior talent."

All wing-level winners who proceed to the USAFE-level will receive three days of performing arts workshops and rehearsals hosted by the USAFE Band. The April 23 competition will yield an ultimate winner.

"The chief and I are looking forward to the competition and are going to make every effort to visit all the wing-level contests," said General Foglesong. "We're hoping to get a lot of folks excited and ready for a highly competitive USAFE Idol Talent Contest."

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



By Col. Michael Gardiner,
39th Air Base Wing commander

CSIP

The U.S. Air Forces in Europe Combat and Special Interest Programs are a way for Incirlik people to get involved and in touch with the organizations and programs available to them.

Combat Proud is one way for people to make and keep Incirlik a place to be proud to live and work. You do not have to wait for designated Combat Proud days to participate. Picking up litter when you see it and looking for ways to improve the appearance of your workplace can greatly enhance our appreciation of this beautiful base. For more information, visit www.mil.usafe.af.mil.

Award winner

Congratulations to **Mr. Jerry Simmons**, 39th Contracting Squadron, for Winning the 2004 Secretary of the Air Force, Professionalism in Contracting (Supervisory Category) award.

DARE graduates

Congratulations to the 69 Incirlik Elementary School students who graduated

from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program this week. These children worked hard during the school year to accomplish the DARE requirements. Special thanks go to Senior Airman **Guadalupe Higadera**, 39th Security Forces police services administrator, for making this program a success.

Customer College

Congratulations to the following Customer College distinguished Graduates: Jan. 4 - 7, **Ms. Debbie Jones**, 39th Services Squadron; Jan 10 - 13, **Staff Sgt. Dennis Brigman**, 39th Air Base Wing.

Bicycle Safety

With the current emphasis on fitness, there are many bicycles on the road today. Those who use bicycles need to follow a few rules when they hit the streets.

- ♦ Wear an approved bicycle helmet, fastened correctly
- ♦ Use bike paths and stay off sidewalks
- ♦ Keep right, ride in single file with traffic, not against it and obey all applicable traffic regulations, signs, signals and markings
- ♦ Use hand signals to indicate turning and stopping
- ♦ Headlight, rear reflector and reflective belt are mandatory during hours of darkness
- ♦ Walkmans and radio headphones are not authorized

For more information, call safety at 6-7233.

Force Protection

While assigned to Incirlik take advantage of it; get out and get involved in Turkish history and culture. Remember to keep force protection in mind at all times.

Report any suspicious activity to the law enforcement desk at 6-3200.

YOUR TURN

What quality do you most value in a supervisor and why?

"Honesty first and foremost. Also, the ability to guide you to be a better Airman."

— **Airman Velicia Yahn**, 39th Communications Squadron



"The quality I most value is loyalty on all levels – up and down the rank structure. Once loyalty toward your lower level troops falters, morale seems to fall in the gutter. Loyalty is not only for supervisors but for everyone."

— **Tech. Sgt. Tyrone Merriweather**, 39th Services Squadron



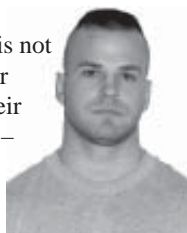
"I appreciate honesty. I want someone to tell me when I am doing well or not."

— **Senior Airman Denise Feliz**, 39th Security Forces Squadron



"Someone who is not afraid to talk to their troops and have their troops talk to them – open lines of communication."

— **Senior Airman Christopher Clawson**, 39th Security Forces Squadron



"There are several important things I value in a good supervisor – they should be responsible, conscientious, informative, caring, loving and kind."

— **Rose Zacharias**, Incirlik Elementary School teacher



To submit a question for "Your Turn," call 6-6060 or e-mail tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil

Wingman

Continued from Page 2

Future events will reinforce Combat Wingman.

"The wings are all actively looking for ways to make the program more user-friendly so it's not a mechanical or must-do kind of thing," Chief Coleman added.

"Wingman Wednesdays" are now occurring at base facilities throughout USAFE. These involve special discounts on fun activities and non-alcoholic beverages during set periods for those possessing Wingman cards and accompanied by their Wingmen. "This incentive program began at RAF Mildenhall but is quickly being adopted by other bases," Capt. Perez said.

Increased participation in Combat Wingman will occur naturally as new folks join the USAFE Team.

"We need to continue to educate those members who are in-processing our bases about the program and its benefits" Chief Coleman said. "The next step is to make sure we have a system in place that maintains Combat Wingman's current momentum especially as we approach our high personnel turnover season."

General Foglesong agreed, adding "As we bring in new people, we're also looking for new ideas for the program that we can share with other bases and ultimately export to other commands. 'Checking six' and caring for our teammates truly is a never-ending process."

Leaders urge focus to reduce accidents

By Gerry Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department wants servicemembers and civilians to concentrate on safety whether they are on or off duty, the department's top personnel official said Monday.

Each year scores of Sailors, Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen, as well as DOD civilians, are killed or injured by preventable accidents, said Dr. David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

For example, "we lose several hundred military persons a year in motor vehicle accidents," Dr. Chu said. "That tragic record continues" during military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

DOD officials have been evaluating safety policies and programs as part of the department's transformation efforts, he said. In a May 2003 memorandum, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stated that top organizations like DOD "do not tolerate preventable accidents."

The secretary asked Dr. Chu to lead the effort to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates within the department by 50 percent over the next two years.

"These goals are achievable, and will directly increase our operational readiness," Secretary Rumsfeld said in the memo. "We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation."

Meeting the secretary's short-term safety goal requires "real process change" across the department, Dr. Chu said. To facilitate that change, the Defense Safety Oversight Council was established, he said, composed of the undersecretaries of defense, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the undersecretaries of the military departments.

That group meets every other month, Dr. Chu said, to provide guidance "and to monitor the accident-reduction efforts the department is undertaking."

The long-term safety goal, Dr. Chu said, "is zero preventable mishaps." The council's existence demonstrates that senior leaders are "involved in pursuing this goal."

Also, Dr. Chu said, a series of task forces have been set up to address safety concerns in military aviation, training, deployment operations, installation or industrial operations, privately operated motor vehicle safety and workmen's compensation.

Dr. Chu said another task force examines acquisition and technology safety issues, while yet another looks at establishing a DOD-wide safety monitoring system. A general officer or a Senior Executive Service civilian heads each task force which all use input from safety experts from across the department and private industry.

The acquisition and technology task force, Dr. Chu said, studies lessons to improve safety standards for present and future military systems. For example, he said, the task force examined the issue of missing or outdated safety

features on tactical military vehicles.

As a result, he said, Army officials are now retrofitting its heavy-truck fleet — including trucks used in combat theaters — with quick-release, multipoint seat belts and anti-lock brakes.

"Vehicle crashes are the largest accidental killer of U.S. military personnel," Dr. Chu said. In Iraq, Humvees and tactical cargo trucks "comprise the largest segment of accidental vehicle deaths." Department safety experts said they believe that ensuring seat belt use by servicemembers, controlling speed and managing driver fatigue "can reduce these accidents," he said.

And the leading noncombat-associated killer of servicemembers, Dr. Chu said, is privately operated vehicle accidents — including motorcycles.

The highest risk group in this category, Dr. Chu said, includes servicemembers 18 to 24 years of age. Military commanders, he said, will continue to issue safety messages to troops "to re-emphasize the need to exercise good judgment."

Dr. Chu said that medical surveillance is a "key element" of DOD's injury-reduction program.

"We need to know where, when and why an injury occurs," he said. It is important to know not only the types of servicemember injuries, "but also the causes," he said.

"Important progress" has been made on the safety front, Dr. Chu said, but, "We've got a long way to go to meet the secretary's goals."



Photo by Senior Airman James Seymore III

A roof overhead

Senol Yaskeceli, 39th Civil Engineer Squadron contractor, works on a construction project in the housing area.

Incirlik is planning a three-phase renovation project of all Herky housing units.

The plan is to convert the existing two-bedroom apartments into two separate one-bedroom units.

The first phase of this project has begun and will take approximately eight months to complete. While the second phase will occur around October and the last a year later.

The plan is to house all occupants in the newly renovated units while construction is underway in the last two phases.

For more information call George Katsiitis, 39th CES contractor, at 6-6232. (Courtesy 39th Civil Engineer Squadron)



Photo by Airman Bradley Lail

Deadly precision

Airman First Class Mary Prince, 39th Security Forces Squadron member, fires her M-4 at her target during the annual M-4 tactical rifle qualifying course.

The Combat Arms Firing Range has recently reopened for official use only; people firing to fulfill deployment requirements, PCSing overseas and weapons qualification for people in 39th SFS and Office of Special Investigations.

The range and its surrounding area is off limits to unauthorized personnel.

For more information call Tech. Sgt. Norman Watson, 39th SFS combat arms NCO in charge, or Staff Sgt. Scott Zeigler, 39th SFS combat arms instructor, at 6-6472 or 6-6332 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. (*Courtesy 39th Security Forces Squadron*)

JAG corps seeks a few good Airmen

By Master Sgt. Tywanna Frazier
39th Air Base Wing Legal Office

The Air Force's Judge Advocate General Corps is giving company-grade officers two opportunities to join their ranks through March.

During the months of January through March, company grade officers can apply to pursue a law degree and transfer over to the JAG Corps through two programs, the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess Leave Program. Both programs are designed to provide the Air Force with lawyers who already have a good understanding of the military and a unique understanding of Air Force Missions.

FLEP is a paid legal-studies program. Program applicants must be active-duty captains with between two and six years of active-duty service as of the first day of law school.

The ELP is an unpaid legal-studies program. Program applicants must have two to 10 years' active-duty service before entering law school. They must also be captains with less than three years of time in grade or below as of the first day of law school.

"These programs allow the JAG corps to recognize deserving officers by furthering their educations with the fascinating and versatile law degree (J.D.) program," said Maj. Robert Ramey, 39th Air Base Wing Staff Judge Advocate. "More importantly, FLEP and ELP allow the JAG corps to incorporate professionals

from other career fields, broadening our perspective across the Air Force and furthering our ultimate objective: first-rate commander support."

Applicants must have completed all application forms and applied to a law school that is accredited by the American Bar Association; however, acceptance into the school is not required at time of application. Incirlik applicants must also have received their Law School Admissions Test results and completed an interview, with the 39th Air Base Wing Staff Judge Advocate, Maj. Robert Ramey, by March 1.

JAG Officers routinely participate in nearly every facet of the Air Force mission, including developing and acquiring weapons systems and ensuring availability of airspace and ranges where those systems are tested and operated. They also consult with commanders about how those systems are used in armed conflict and assist in the day-to-day running of military installations worldwide.

Both programs are very competitive. The overall 2004 selection rate for the program was 18 percent. Qualifications are found in Air Force Instruction 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program, and online at www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil.

For more information, e-mail Maj. Brandon Halstead, 39th ABW Staff Judge Advocate deputy, at brandon.halstead@incirlik.af.mil or call at 6-6800. (*Air Force Print News information contributed to this article*)

IN THE NEWS

Education grant

The Air Force Aid Society's Gen. "Hap" Arnold Education Grant program offers a \$1,500 grant to selected children and spouses of active duty, Title 10 and Title 32 Air Guard Reserve, retired or deceased Air Force members. For more information or to apply, log onto www.afas.org.

System down

The Air Force is changing from the Core Automated Maintenance System to the Integrated Maintenance Data System Feb. 4. For the conversion, CAMS is offline from 9 a.m. Feb. 4 until 5 p.m. Feb. 5. The new CAMS address is <https://cdb2.csd.disa.mil>. For more information, call 6-987 or 6-6364.

Civilian jobs

People who want to apply for a job with Incirlik's Civilian Personnel Flight must now submit resumes to the Air Force Personnel Center at <https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil>, then self nominate for the job they want. All job announcements will be made on the AFPC Web site. For more information, call Joe Greene or Aqueilla Grimmage at 6-6416.

Chute reduces evacuations to seconds

By Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda
39th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

Fire, Fire, Fire. Whether real world or exercise, most military members have the response to this stimuli ingrained in their psyche from their days in basic military training – evacuate.

For people who work in the tower evacuating, when seconds count, meant the descent down nine stories of stairs. The more than \$50,000 Baker Life Chute project changes that. Incirlik became one of only four U.S. military installations overseas to have a Baker Life Chute, a netting tube that allows egress from tall structures during emergencies such as fire or natural disaster.

“This is the first base in my almost 18 years of service I have been to that has a Baker Life Chute,” said Master Sgt. Stewart Williams, 39th Operations Squadron tower chief controller. “The chute reduces the amount of time it takes to evacuate the tower to about four seconds, depending on the speed of the fall, which the evacuee can control.”

The Baker Life Chute was invented by Ralph Baker after watching television news reports during the 1980 MGM Grand Hotel fire in Las Vegas. Eighty-four people were killed, many of the victims being trapped on the 26th floor beyond the reach of fire fighters’ ladders, and hundreds were injured.

“[Baker Life Chutes] are designed for quick and easy deployment, permit rapid mass evacuation from high-rise struc-



Photos by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Master Sgt. Stewart Williams, 39th Operations Squadron chief tower controller, demonstrates the use of a Baker Life Chute as he controls his rate of descent as he approaches the midway point during an initial test on the new installation. The chute provides egress from the air traffic control tower and reduces evacuation times to seconds.

tures, immediately carries evacuees out and away from the structure minimizing exposure to fire and smoke, falling glass and (other hazards),” said Mr. Baker. “The Baker Life Chute installed at Incirlik offers the same safeguards and benefits that all Baker Life Chutes offer.”

The Baker Life Chute, in addition to having the capacity to provide a means of egress to a constant stream of evacuees, can be quickly moved to obtain the best condition for a safe descent, is designed to deploy in a matter of minutes and, because there is no visible contact with the ground, gives one a sense of being securely cradled in the net.

“I’m not too keen on heights, but when you are actually in it, you can’t see down; the netting blocks the view so you can only see out toward the horizon, there’s no sense of height,” said Sergeant Williams who was the first Incirlik person to test the chute. “The safety concern of

From the Baker Life Chute inventor, Ralph Baker:

Editor’s Note: Baker Life Chutes are currently installed at twenty U.S. military installations state-side and overseas as well as in numerous other locations worldwide. As a type of egress that can carry a continuous flow of evacuees, requires little or no user instruction and provides a secure means of evacuation to even the sick, challenged, very young and acrophobic, this chute is a proven life-saving invention, according to testimonials at www.lifechute.com.

We actually install, demonstrate and provide training for every Baker Life Chute sold in the world. We have provided this service in many countries such as England Honduras, Japan, Germany, South Korea, and now Turkey.

The reason we travel to our customers’ locations to perform the installation, as well as the training, is largely due to the fact the Baker Life Chute is custom designed and manufactured for the customer’s specific application. Providing this service will ensure that the installation and the training are performed to meet Baker Safety Equipment’s specifications.

I am very pleased and proud that the life-saving device that I invented is available and supported by the United States military. The military personnel that work on high-rise structures such as air traffic control towers will have a secondary means of egress that they can feel confident with during times of emergency evacuation.

I served in the United States Air Force during the Korean Conflict and I am honored that I can contribute to help out the men and women that serve our great country.

Our experience when we visited Turkey was a heart-warming (one). The hospitality we received was second to none. Captain Will Boyles (39th Operations Squadron airfield operations flight commander), Master Sgt. Stewart Williams (39th OS tower chief controller), and Master Sgt. Richard Temple (39th OS assistant tower chief controller) as well as everyone else were very friendly and made our stay at the 39th Air Base Wing in Incirlik, Turkey, an enjoyable one.

Dedicated personnel, Sergeants Williams and Temple took care of the (challenges) such as the Turkish government’s requirements for us to make this trip possible. It is very refreshing when everyone is working toward a common goal.

Ralph Baker

*Baker Safety Equipment, Inc.
Chief executive officer*



Master Sgt. Stewart Williams, 39th Operations Squadron chief tower controller, nears the anchored bottom of the chute. The chute reduces the amount of time required to evacuate from the tower.

See **Chute**, Page 10

View of the Kaaba
 – Islam's holiest
 shrine – in
 Mecca, Saudi
 Arabia. More than
 2 million people
 went to Mecca on
 Hajj this year.
 While in Mecca
 the pilgrims
 complete the four
 principal rights,
 Ihram, Twaf,
 Sa'ay and staying
 on the plain of
 Mount Arafat.
 People who have
 completed their
 Hajj are called
 Hacı (pronounced
 ha-gee).

Thomas J. Abercrombie/National Geographic Image Collection



Ask MEHMET

By Mehmet Birbiri, *Host Nation Adviser*

Hajj

Question: In your last column you mentioned something about a pilgrimage called Hajj what exactly is Hajj?

Answer: More than 2 million Moslems from all over the world have started to return home from the pilgrimage to Mecca called Hajj, which is the fifth pillar of Islam.

Hajj is obligatory at least once in a lifetime for every Moslem, male or female, who is of a responsible age, in fairly good health and is financially capable and secure.

For a woman, it is stipulated that she must be accompanied by a “muhram” who may be her husband or those who are forbidden to marry her by religious injunction.

In fulfilling this service, Moslems express their devotion to Allah, not only by performing rites which need physical effort, but by expressing their deep spiritual devotions to Allah and spending their money for Allah's sake.

The pilgrimage is an annual event and

attended by Moslems worldwide. They meet in one place, Mecca, and are dressed in similar outfits. There is no discrimination or preference between them; all are Allah's creations.

In this way, Moslems are acquainted with one another, cooperate with one another, and they remember the day when they will be resurrected and gathered before Allah for an accounting of their deeds.

Thus, they prepare themselves for the hereafter and do their best to obey Allah, their lord. The principle rites of the pilgrimage are:

Ihram: Everyone must enter the Holy Land in a state of Ihram, in which pilgrims remove ordinary clothes and wear one kind of apparel. The wear consists of two seamless sheets, keeping the head uncovered, except in case of women who must cover their heads. Ihram symbolizes that all men and women are equal.

All distinctions of rank, color, wealth and nationality disappear. The rich are indistinguishable from the poor.

Tawaf: Making seven complete circles around the Ka'aba, the holy shrine in Mecca believed to be the first religious building in history and built by the Prophet Abraham.

Sa'ay: Crossing seven times the distance between two small hills neighboring Ka'aba, known as Al-safa and Al-Marwa.

Staying in the plain of Mount Arafat: on the ninth day of the month of pilgrimage.

Here, pilgrims must perform noon and afternoon prayers.

Every Moslem must complete the four principal rites to make his or her Hajj complete.

In Turkish

din - religion
 (dinn)

namaz - prayer
 (nah - mahz)

kadin - woman
 (kah - den)

erkek - man, male
 (ehr - cac)

cocuk - child
 (cho - juk)

cicek - flower
 (chee - check)

Do you have a question about something Turkish? Ask Mehmet. To submit a question, call 6-6060 or e-mail mehmec.birbiri@incirlik.af.mil.

Airmen provide Rhein-Main blanket of security

By Master Sgt. John Lasky
Air Force Print News

RHEIN-MAIN AIR BASE, Germany (AFPN) — For the last decade, the end has always seemed near for this historic air base. Now, the scheduled handover to Germany is officially within 12 months. As the closure nears, officials said the base is probably more important than it has ever been.

Airmen and aircraft here are sustaining a heavy work tempo for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. As at any other location, whether large, small, behind enemy lines or in the United States, a blanket of security is needed to meet mission objectives, officials said.

The 469th Air Base Group's security forces flight Airmen keep the blanket nice and tight. However, with the increased tempo here, they said they are getting some welcome assistance. Pulling on the corners of this blanket are supplemental security forces

Airmen from nearby Ramstein Air Base, Spangdahlem Air Base and Vogelweh Military Complex.

"The (operations) couldn't be supported without the augmentees," said Master Sgt. Gary Luttrell, the flight's operations superintendent. "As long as the mission is here, the augmentees are needed."

Staff Sgt. Tim Crincic is one of the Airmen augmenting from Ramstein's 435th Security Forces Squadron. He is a combat arms journeyman helping in the armory.

"If I can't help in the desert, I can help here," he said. "It's better to see (the troops) when they're returning to the states; they're much happier."

Like other units here, the challenge comes from losing people without getting replacements. This, officials said, makes the augmentees even more important.

"I have the responsibility of ensuring the terminal, the hangars, resources inside the hangars are secure," said Airman Chad Alfred,



Photo by Master Sgt. John Lasky

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Clairmont, from the 435th Security Forces Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, and other security forces augmentees are helping the 469th Air Base Group's security forces flight while Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom missions are flying from Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany.

who is here from the 469th U.S. Forces Police Squadron at Vogelweh. He conducts random anti-terrorism measures at an access point to the flightline.

Without the augmentees, "We really couldn't do it," said Capt. Jeffrey Adams, the flight's chief.

Chute

Continued from Page 8

our No. 1 asset — our people — was the deciding factor on starting this project, which received approval in August."

There was a "lack of an existing system; our main concern is a fire or any event that requires evacuation of the tower and the stairwell is blocked," said Master Sgt. Richard Temple, 39th OS assistant tower chief controller. "(Having the Baker Life Chute installed) provides a little ease of mind of what you would do if you had to evacuate. It's a long way to the ground without one."

The installation of the 143-foot chute was overseen by the inventor himself, Mr. Baker, and the first test slide was done by the Baker Safety Equipment vice president, Mark Baker, who is also the inventor's son, said Sergeant Temple. Mark Hearn, Baker Safety Equipment director of manufacturing also assisted in the installation.

"We actually install, demonstrate and provide training for every Baker Life Chute sold in the world," said Mr. Ralph Baker. "We are a small company and feel a 'personal responsibility' to ensure that the Baker Life Chute will perform efficiently when and if it must be deployed in an emergency to save lives."

Everyone who works in the tower will train at least semi-annually on the deployment of the Baker Life Chute, which takes two people (one on the ground to anchor it into an arch and one in the tower) to deploy. Although, in an emergency if no one else is available, a single person in the tower can deploy and use it; however, more control is required to regulate the rate of descent. The current plan is to test the Incirlik chute every February and August.

For more information on the Baker Life Chute, visit www.lifechute.com.

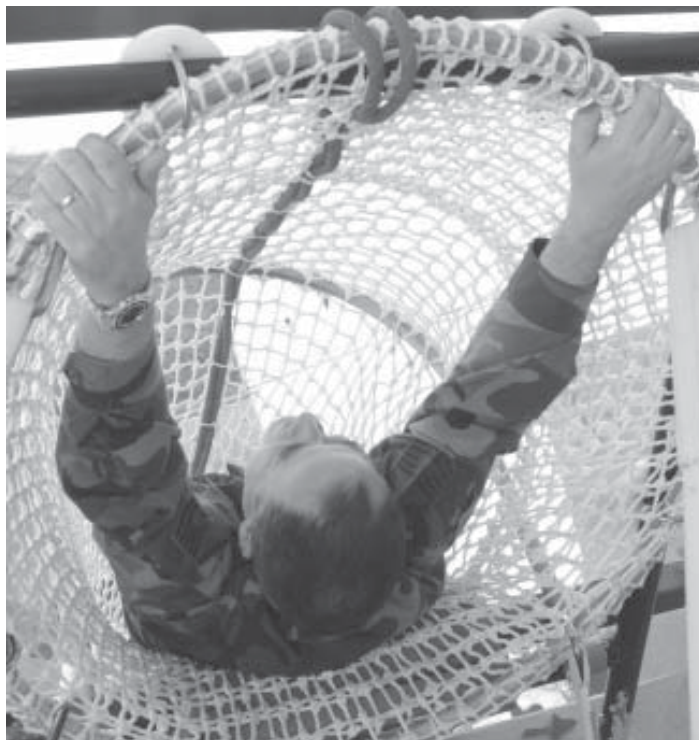


Photo by Senior Airman Dallas Edwards

Master Sgt. Stewart Williams, 39th Operations Squadron tower chief controller, launches himself through the Baker Life Chute. The installation of the Incirlik chute was completed Dec. 18 and Mark Baker, Baker Safety Equipment vice president, was the first person to test it. Sergeant Williams was the first Incirlik person to test the chute.

THE INCIRLIK GUIDE

Tsunami Relief Drive

The children of the youth center are collecting donations for the Tsunami Relief Effort until 1:30 p.m. today at the Official Document Center and the base exchange. For more information call Wiyanda Lee at 6-6670 or Staff Sgt. Patricia Keen at 6-6272.

'Final Friday' celebration

The 39th Services Squadron is hosting a "Final Friday" Spam Fest at 5:30 p.m. today at the consolidated club. There are a number of Spam-related activities planned. For more information call Chris Skully at 6-6689.

Valentines Day greetings

The *Tip of the Sword* is giving people the chance to say "I love you" in print in the Feb. 14 edition. People can submit a greeting of 25 words or less by e-mailing tip.sword@incirlik.af.mil no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 4. Messages will run on a first-come, first-served basis and may be edited for brevity and style. "To" and "from" names are required. Any submissions in poor taste will not be printed. For more information call Public Affairs at 6-6060.

NAAH Month events

There are several activities planned for National African American History Month:

Thursday – Kickoff breakfast at the consolidated club; **Feb. 12** – Three-on-three basketball tournament at the fitness center; **Feb. 14** – Soul food sampler at the Crossroads Café; **Feb. 17, 18, 19** – Church revival ; **Feb. 26** – NAAH Month Extravaganza. For more information call Master Sgt. Curtis Palmer at 6-3131.

Incirlik High School

Incirlik High school is participating in the Campbell's labels for education program. People can bring labels from Campbell's food products to the commissary or the high school office. For more information call Henriette Reddick at 6-6484.

WARRIOR OF THE WEEK



Airman Britani Rafferty,
39th Communications Squadron
Postal Clerk

Time in service: 10 months

Hometown: West Milford, W.Va.

Time on station: six months

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time with my husband, Sean, and friends, sports, outdoor activities and anything exciting

Why did you join the Air Force?

I wanted to see the world

What do you like most about Incirlik?

When I was younger I always looked up to people in the military and I thought it would be a great experience to travel the world and get my degree at the same time.

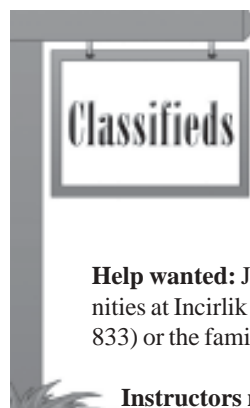
What do you like most about Incirlik?

I like the fact that Incirlik is a small base and getting to know people is a lot easier than it would be if I was at a larger base.

What is your favorite motto? "A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs – jolted by every pebble in the road," – Henry Ward Beecher. I chose that quote because it explains the way I feel about life. I am a fun, outgoing person. When I'm around someone with no sense of humor who doesn't seem to be happy, it always seems to drag me down.

What Air Force core value best describes you? Excellence in all we do, I take pride in my job and am always trying to learn new things and help others.

Supervisor's quote: "Airman Rafferty shows great commitment as a finance clerk and takes the extra step to show the customers within the (ODC) the customer service they deserve even when it's not easy to do," said Staff Sgt. Phillip Black, 39th Communications Squadron Custodian of Postal Effects. "She also strives for self improvement by continuing her education toward her Community College of the Air Force Degree while exceeding Air Force standards."



Volunteers needed: Youth Sports Advisory Committee members are needed to set up quarterly meetings, league by-laws, policies and surveys. Call the youth center at 6-3246 or 6-6670 for details.

For sale: 1987 Honda Accord. Runs great! Must sell for \$1,500 or best offer. Also for sale is a very nice Eternity archery target for \$35. Call 6-2122 for more information.

Help wanted: Job seekers should contact the job hotline for employment opportunities at Incirlik by calling 6-6677 or stop by the Civilian Personnel Office (Building 833) or the family support center.

Instructors needed: The community center needs instructors for all types of dance and cooking classes. Call Nerissa Atkisson at 6-1032 for details.

For sale: 1994 Honda Civic hatchback, three door, air conditioning, red, low mileage, one owner car. The car has U.S. specs. Selling for \$3,975 or best offer. Call Julie at 0-555-202-5140 for more information.

Student Hire: If you are a good student, aged 16 to 13, you might qualify for a student hire position with the Defense Commissary Agency, Europe at the Incirlik Commissary. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and family members of active-duty military or federal civil service workers in Europe on official orders. Go to www.chrma.hqsareur.army.mil and click employment, U.S. appropriated funds, announcements in Europe and enter "family member" in the key word search. Look for Family Youth Part Time Employment Program.

Girl Scouts: Volunteers are needed for the Overseas Committee Chair position for Girl Scout Year 2005-2006. There is training available for the position. For more information call April Rogers at 6-6321 or 6-5748.

COMBAT, SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAM

Crossroads Café

Today: The Company Grade Officers Council hosts food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 7 to 11 p.m. It is open to everyone ages 18 and older. **Saturday:** The Protestant Men of the Chapel hosts food and fellowship at the Crossroads Café from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call Senior Airman Tianna Milagro at 6-6441.

Prayer Luncheon

The Commander's Prayer Luncheon is Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the club. Today is the last day to purchase tickets, which are available from first sergeants or the chapel. For more information, call the chapel at 6-6441.

Project CHEER events

X-Box qualifier Saturday in the community center at 1 p.m. **Pool shark shoot-out** in After Six Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. Open to two-member teams ages 18 and older. For both events, pre-registration required and winner competes at U.S. Air Forces in Europe level. For more information about these events, call Nerissa Atkisson at 6-1032. **Poker Night** Saturday in After Six at 8 p.m. Five-card draw, free snacks and beverages, and prizes available for winners. For more information, call Melissa Kronewitter at 6-8411.

Combat Touch happenings

Combined Protestant service Sunday at 11:15 a.m. in the chapel. **Chapel-sponsored pilgrimage** to Cappadocia is planned for February. For more information, call 6-6441.

Job Shadow Day

Incirlik American High School staff sponsors Job Shadow Day Wednesday. This day provides an annual opportunity for children to "shadow" their parents or another responsible adult, with their parent or guardian's signed permission, at work. To offer a job shadow experience to a student you do not have to be a parent or guardian of a high school student. To volunteer, call James Bottlinger or Chelly Kenney at 6-6330. For more information about Job Shadow Day 2005, log on to www.jobshadow.org.



Photo by Senior Airman Joseph Thompson

Fire safety costs Incirlik thousands of dollars annually, but many fires can be avoided or controlled with the proper training and responsive actions. Mandatory fire-safety briefings and fire extinguisher training for housing and dorm residents like the one Staff Sgt. Andrew Svoboda (left), AFN-Incirlik broadcaster, is participating in, are offered at the fire station Thursdays at 11 a.m. This is an annual requirement. Mandatory fire-safety training is also required for baby-sitters, maids and gardeners and is offered Fridays at 10 a.m. For more information, call 6-3021.



AT THE OASIS

Today

7 p.m. – The Incredibles (PG) – Animated. A dysfunctional family of famous superheroes, led by the retired and overweight Mr. Incredible is placed in a quiet suburb by the Witness Protection Program in order to protect them from their arch nemesis. But their peaceful existence is hardly that, and when the world is threatened, Mr. Incredible must go back to work. (115 minutes)



9 p.m. – Saw (R) – Starring Leigh Whannell and Cary Elwes. Obsessed with teaching his victims the value of life, a deranged, sadistic serial killer is abducting morally wayward people and forcing them to play horrific games for their own survival. (100 minutes)



Saturday

5 p.m. – The Polar Express (G) – Animated. Believing in Santa Clause isn't easy when all of your friends and family insist he's just make-believe. But a young boy's faith is rewarded Christmas Eve. (90 minutes)

7 p.m. – Closer (R)(1st Run) – Starring Julia Roberts and Jude Law. An uncompromisingly honest look at modern relationships, Closer is the story of four strangers and their chance meetings, instant attractions and brutal betrayals. (110 minutes)



Sunday

7 p.m. – Closer (R)(1st Run) – Starring Julia Roberts and Jude Law. (110 minutes)

Thursday

7 p.m. – Saw (R) – Starring Leigh Whannell and Cary Elwes. (100 minutes)

AT THE M1

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG) — 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 4:15 p.m., 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m., and 11:30 p.m. (110 minutes)

The Incredibles (PG) — 11:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4 p.m., 6:45 p.m., and 9:15 p.m. (122 minutes)

Movie listings are subject to changes. On-base listings are courtesy of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Web site at <http://www.aafes.com/ems/euro/incirlik.htm>; M-1 listings are courtesy of the Tempe Cinemaxx Web site at www.tempecinemaxx.com.tr. For more Oasis information and updates, call the movie recording at 6-6986 or the theater office at 6-9140.